

TRIBUNE SUPPLEMENT.

NEW-YORK, MAY 10, 1849.

See Regular Issue of This Morning.

Lord Selkirk's American Settlement.

This settlement, formed some thirty years ago, on the Red River, in the British possessions north of Minnesota territory, by a few Scotch Highlanders sent out by Lord Douglas, Earl of Selkirk, appears to have secured all the trials and difficulties of a frontier under the most adverse circumstances and to have become a considerable and thriving colony, with schools, churches, and other means of prosperity and growth. Its early history is characterized by great trials and sufferings, and for many years the issue seemed doubtful. But we learn by a letter in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, that its period of probation is probably over. The present number of inhabitants is about 7,000, including the Indian settlements, which contains 600-500 Crees or Kustenies, and 100 Ojibways. There are, however, only fifty families of Scotch. Many of their countrymen have moved to the United States, Canada during the days of their adversity. There are also a few English and Orkneymen, but the greater part of the inhabitants half natives, and descendants of fur-traders and their servants, by native women.

We quote the following brief account of it:

The settlement lies on both sides of the river, and extends more than forty miles. There are four Episcopal churches, a Catholic cathedral, and a chapel. The Papists are the most numerous, but the Episcopalian are, by far, the most influential. The Scotch had the promise of a Gaelic minister when they left Scotland, and they are very much dissatisfied that the promise has not been fulfilled. Nearly all of them understand English now, and those that meet them in their service, but, though most of them join in reading church services, and only a part come to the communion. They are still partial to the Presbyterian form of worship. They all have their children baptised, and it is often done when the child is very young—ALWAYS. There is a probability that it will not live long.

There are only seven schools in the settlement. Most of these are supported, in part, by the Church Missionary Society. Rev. Mr. Cochran has been there more than twenty years. He is the founder of the Indian settlement. Rev. Mr. Macmillan, principal of the Academy, succeeded a Mr. Jones. He has been in the school sixteen years. Most of the Indians of the country, of course, are from a great distance. It is a boarding school, and but very few of the settlers think they are able to avail themselves of its privileges. The expense is twenty-five pounds sterling per annum. They live in what would be considered good style in any New England village. Teachers and orders are visible throughout the whole establishment. The buildings are sufficiently large to accommodate nearly one hundred pupils, but present no room for expansion. The schools are not quite so flourishing as formerly. Mr. Macmillan has two students, a gentleman from Eng-land, and a lady (half native) who was educated in the Academy. She is the only female teacher in the whole settlement. There is another school in the mission premises, a few rods from the school, which is also under Mr. Macmillan's super-vision, except that the settlers have the privilege of choosing their own teacher. It is now kept by one of Mr. Macmillan's former pupils.

The great wealth of the country may not yet have escaped as far as the Hudson. All, with few exceptions, drink it right from the tap. The schools are not quite so flourishing as formerly. Mr. Macmillan has two students, a gentleman from Eng-land, and a lady (half native) who was educated in the Academy. She is the only female teacher in the whole settlement. There is another school in the mission premises, a few rods from the school, which is also under Mr. Macmillan's super-vision, except that the settlers have the privilege of choosing their own teacher. It is now kept by one of Mr. Macmillan's former pupils.

But notwithstanding all this, there seem to be a spirit of independence in the country. Last year presents were given out of the public treasury to the individuals who manufactured the best cloths, yarn, cheese &c. Thirty shillings—about seven dollars—was awarded to one woman for very fine woolen yarn, about as much as a lady could run through her thumb. The family that will make during the present year one hundred yards of the best cloth of different kinds, has the promise of 20 pounds sterling and a good market for all the cloths they wish to sell. The Scotch are the principal manufacturers.

The flax-mills in the settlement are all wood, and the number is lessened by hand. Those who use them for spinning wool are just like those used in the States for spinning linen. Every family card their own wool and full their own cloth. The process of fulling is quite amusing. When a web is brought from the weavers, a few young men are invited in, the cloth is wet in soap-suds and thrown upon the floor. They sit down on the floor to their work, with the cloth between their feet, (barefooted) and sometimes support their backs. They kick at the cloth, trying to describe the process, then to say, they kick and kick, and kick till it is kicked enough each on occasion as far as it needs to be. The water and steam from the cloth add to a profuse perspiration, gives them a pretty thorough dressing. They seize to change their clothes, while the women gather up the cloth, and prepare supper.

A Public Library has recently been established in the Colony, containing several hundred volumes. Most of the books were purchased in the States. There are also some pretty extensive private libraries. Mr. Macmillan has a library of his own, and the people generally have few books. Their school books are not very well adapted to the wants of children. A Sabbath School is kept at the Upper Church, superintendent by Mr. Macmillan.

THE UNDERWOOD LAKE OF THE CENTRAL HARBOR.—A short distance beyond Lake, on the lake side of the town, is the underwood lake, which we gave a description at the time the filling in was commenced. Travellers in passing over the embankment, since the road has been finished to New-Buffalo, are generally anxious to take a look at the singular place; and by the more timid, and superstitious some fear, that the embankment would not be safe, but very little fear. Since however, the lake has not done immense heavy trials of freight and passenger cars have passed over the road, and the ground at this point, about the centre of the lake, has settled about two feet. The earth, for a great distance around, retains evidences of the convulsions caused by the sinking of the embankment. The ground, or crust, is heaved up and cracked open in every direction, and in some places the cracks are over eight feet wide. The company have expended a large sum of money in carrying out the original design of crossing at this point, the exact amount of which is impossible to arrive at, but it is probably over \$50,000.

FORTUNATE ESCAPE.—One evening, last Saturday evening, Captain Rogers, who had been at the fort in New-Buffalo, came to the ship. He told us that he had been captured by the Chinese, and that he had been held in confinement for three weeks. He said that he had been ill, and that he had been unable to assist himself. Their language could not be understood, but they spoke English and English language. They are supposed to be Chinese. In addition to the above we learn from Mr. Charles Ashworth, the Chinaman at the tea store, 198 Washington-st., that the Chinese had been captured by the Chinese, and that they had been held in confinement for three weeks. He said that he had been ill, and that he had been unable to assist himself. Their language could not be understood, but they spoke English and English language. They are supposed to be Chinese. 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